



The Resonator

Official Newsletter of the Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club

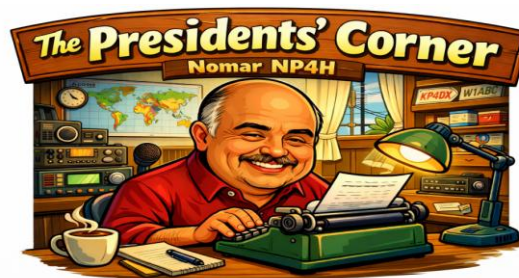
Volume 11, Number 4

www.FairLawnARC.org

April 2026

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April has been an energizing month for the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club, and I'd like to extend our sincere appreciation to Ed Wilson N2XDD for joining us at our recent meeting. Ed provided valuable insight into current ARRL initiatives, what's ahead for the League, and how these efforts impact clubs and operators at every level. His openness to questions and dialogue made for a truly engaging and informative evening.

One topic that stood out during the discussion was the challenge many clubs face in retaining and encouraging new members. Too often, newcomers are met with criticism rather than curiosity — especially when their interests differ from more traditional operating styles. These so-called “grumpy” or “**sad hams**” in a club can unintentionally create barriers to newcomers that discourage growth in our hobby.

At FLARC, we strive to be different.

We must remember that every one of us was new at some point. Whether someone is excited about FT8, contesting, POTA, or simply learning how to program their first handheld, there is value in every path within amateur radio. By embracing the role of Elmers — mentors, guides, and encouragers — we strengthen not only individual operators but the future of our club and the hobby as a whole.

Let's continue to foster an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive. The rewards — new friendships, fresh ideas, and a stronger club — are well worth the effort.



A “SAD” ham

Remember:
Ham Radio Is a Contact Sport!

73, Nomar Vizcarrondo, NP4H
President, Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club



FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
★ Celebrating 70 Years of Service ★

70 YEARS 1956 2026
FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PORTABLE DAY 2026
★ "Take Radio Outdoors!" ★

Saturday, April 25, 2026
Starting at 8:00 AM

Memorial Park – Pavilion
Avenue of Heroes ~ Fair Lawn, NJ

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club
invites **ALL** Amateur Radio Operators
(members and non-members alike) to join us for a day of:

- ★ Operating
- ★ Outdoor Fun
- ★ Fellowship

**BRING YOUR GEAR
AND GET ON THE AIR!**

- ♦ HF ♦ VHF ♦ UHF
- ♦ CW ♦ SSB ♦ DIGITAL
- ♦ SATELLITE

Portable setups welcome!

★ **COME BRING YOUR GEAR AND GET ON THE AIR!** ★

Talk-In Frequencies
W2NPT - 145.470 MHz
Offset: - 600 kHz PL. 167.9

REPEATERS
WO2X - 442.700 MHz
Offset: +5 MHz TX PL. 87.4
RX PL. 141.3 RX PL. 141.3

www.FairLawnARC.org

Ham Radio Class Forming Now

ARC Squared Radio club will be holding
a 2-day in-person Amateur General Radio License class
where you can learn what you need to pass your
35-question exam and earn your upgrade to a
General FCC Amateur Radio License.

*The General license is the second of three
U.S. Amateur Radio licenses.*

*To upgrade to General, you must hold a Technician license.
Upgrading to a General conveys extensive HF privileges.*

Class: 2 days (Saturday and Sunday) May 16-17

Time: 8:00 am to about 4:30 pm

Location: Fairfield, NJ Red Cross office

209 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004
(Entrance from parking lot)

Class Fee: \$25 (snacks & facility)

Exam Fee: \$15 (payable at exam)

Schedule:

- Pre-Studying is required
- Class: all day Saturday, 8 am to about 4:30 pm
- Review: Sunday, 8 am to about 1 pm
- Exam: Sunday, after review

Registration required: *(with full name, address, cell number, call sign)*
Registration closes May 8th or when class reaches full capacity of 20.

To register or to ask questions, email: **NB1LL@ARRL.net**

Instructor: Bill Kelly, NB1LL (that is a #1 in NB1LL)

ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®



• FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB • ANNUAL HAMFEST 2026

BUY • SELL • TRADE • MEET FRIENDS

It's our **Annual FLARC Hamfest** and we're doing it again at the Fair Lawn Memorial Pool.

- Bring the family and kids,
- Bring your radio gear if you're selling.
- And come ready to hunt for great deals!



**More sponsors.
More vendors.**

Come for the **gear** – stay for the food and fellowship



**PARKING LOT CLOSED UNTIL 6:00 AM
DO NOT COME EARLY**

SATURDAY • JUNE 6, 2026

Doors Open | **Sellers: 6:00AM
Buyers: 8:00AM**



RAIN DATE – JUNE 13, 2026

> LOCATION • • •

**Fair Lawn
Memorial Pool**

Bellair Avenue at Dewey Place
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

> TALK-IN < < <

✓ **145.470 MHz (-600)
PL 167.9**

✓ **442.700 MHz (+5.0)
RX PL 141.3: TX PL 97.4**

✓ 147.585 Simplex

✓ Echolink Node 300501

> AMENITIES < < < <

- ✓ Free Parking
- ✓ Refreshments Available
- ✓ Indoor Rest Rooms
- ✓ Handicap Accessible

> QUESTIONS < < < <

☎ **201-791-3841**

✉ **W2NPT@ARRL.NET**

🌐 **www.FairLawnARC.org**

North Jersey's Favorite Ham Radio Flea Market!

Super Science Saturday: A Successful Day of Youth Outreach

— reported by Sky KD2SOG

Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club had a very successful outing at **Super Science Saturday** in Ridgewood (NJ) in early March, with strong engagement from students, parents, and fellow science enthusiasts throughout the day. Our room saw steady traffic, and we distributed **49 QSL cards** from our outreach bin while answering lots of great questions about amateur radio and what hams actually do.

Visual displays helped draw the kids in, including posters and a continuously replaying video of the **International Space Station contact from Paterson last October**, which sparked plenty of curiosity and conversation. Many attendees were surprised to learn how accessible and relevant amateur radio can be, especially in educational and emergency communications contexts.

Hands-on demonstrations were a particular highlight. **Steve (WI2W)** generously jumped in at very short notice to run the Morse code activity, even repairing a key on the spot so the Youth could try sending the code

themselves, often (although not always!) for the first time. We also operated a live demonstration station using a mix of my **portable POTA equipment** and **Louie's (N2NVE) SDR setup**, which proved to be an excellent way to showcase both traditional operating and modern software-defined radio technology side by side.

Overall, the event was a great example of how amateur radio fits naturally into STEM outreach, and it was encouraging to see such strong interest from young people and families. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success, and to the Super Science Saturday organizers for another well-run and engaging event. We also received a gift from the school, a "ham" radio – **a canned ham with an antenna!** Look for it in the clubhouse. In particular, I'd like to thank: Gene WO2W, Gene K2KJI, Steve WI2W, Skip KD2BRV, Madison N5NY, Louie N2NVE, and Jim W2JC.



Sky KD2SOG, Gene WO2W, Gene K2KJI, Steve WI2W, Skip KD2BRV, Madison N5NY, Louie N2NVE and Jim W2JC



York Hamfest

W3ZGD
Since July 1953

Sponsored by the York Hamfest Foundation supporting 2 local Amateur Radio Clubs.
One of the OLDEST Hamfests in the area, in our 70th year.

Saturday April 25, 2026
8:00am to 12:00pm

****Great Location****

Glenview Alliance Church 10037 Susquehanna Trail S Glen Rock, PA 17327

INDOOR SPACED / COVERED OUTDOOR SPACES / TAILGATING
RAIN or SHINE FREE PARKING

* Vendor and Tailgating set up at 6am Saturday morning. *

Admission plus \$10 per 10' space outside or 1 table inside. \$5 for each additional space.
Commercial vendors are expected to collect and remit PA sales tax.

* General Admission gate opens at 8am. *

\$10 per person (FREE for children under 16 when accompanied by an adult and unlicensed spouses)

* Hourly Door Prizes / Radio Game Prizes / Grand Prize

Do not have to be present to win the Grand Prize

* Food vendor with breakfast and lunch menu available *

* Free VE testing *

Registration starts at 10:30am with Testing starting at 11:00am
(Paid admission fee can be refunded upon registration for testing. Full ticket and stub are required.)

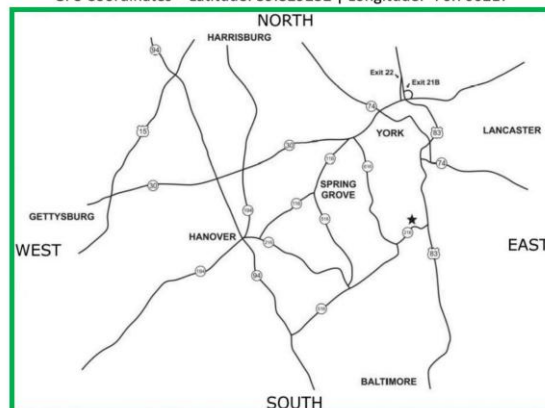
* Card checking for DXCC/WAS/VUCC/WAC

York Hamfest

Saturday April 25, 2026
8:00am to 12:00pm

Glenview Alliance Church
10037 Susquehanna Trail S Glen Rock, PA 17327

GPS Coordinates = Latitude: 39.829232 | Longitude: -76.700217



This map is NOT drawn to scale.



Check our website, <https://www.yorkhamfest.org> for any updates.
For general information email: YorkPAHamfest@gmail.com



Check our website, <https://www.yorkhamfest.org> for any updates.
For general information email: YorkPAHamfest@gmail.com

★★ INTERNATIONAL ★★
**LIGHTHOUSE
LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND**
— THE FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB —
— OPERATING AS W2L —

FAIR LAWN
70 YEARS 1956-2026
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Stony Point Lighthouse
STONY POINT, NY
AUGUST 15 & 16, 2026

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary
of the Stony Point Lighthouse!

W2L

ARLHS USA-923 • ILLW US0264 • POTA US-7734 • WCA K-01088

2026 Dues are due now

New members: only \$20 for your first year ! And if you sign up after October 1st you get next year free.

There are no changes to dues for the upcoming year.

Renew now, and let us know what activities or features would make you more active with the club.

Please make checks payable to:

"Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club"

and send them to:

Fair Lawn ARC
– Attn: Secretary
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Please include a member application form with your \$25 check regardless of your member status.

It can be found at

<https://fairlawnarc.com/membership.html>



EmComm SIG Updates

[Emergency Communications via Ham Radio]

Amateur radio operators use their training, skills, and equipment to provide communications during emergencies. Hams serve our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. Amateur radio can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems. An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.



The Resonator Is Now Archived!

Ever wanted to search for something in *The Resonator*? Maybe a member profile. Perhaps a past Street Fair. Even who participated at Field Day in 2017.

Now you can. *The Resonator* has now been accepted as part of the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. DLARC is a project of the Internet Archive (the not-for-profit online library best known for *The Wayback Machine*.) DLARC is growing to be a massive online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications. It is funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications.

When you need to find something, go to: <https://archive.org/details/flarc-resonator>

You can use the search "text contents" field to do a full-text search on all issues or click "Date Published" to see them sorted by publication date.

Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



The FLARC EmComm SIG is working closely with the NENJ-ARES group (North East NJ) to create an area-wide corps of well prepared hams who can handle emergency communications accurately and efficiently.

Times have changed and we can now use digital message formats as well as voice messaging.

If you would like to learn more about this phase of ham radio, send an email to —

main+owner@NENJ-ARES-EMCOMM.groups.io

or contact Jim N2JLF at N2JLF@arrl.net



The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio

Why is FLARC New Jersey's Most Exciting Radio Club?

Annual and Special Events

- ✓ Field Day
- ✓ Winter Field Day
- ✓ World Amateur Radio Day
- ✓ Portable Day
- ✓ Earth and Environmental Days
- ✓ Field Trips
- ✓ Special Even
- ✓ Public Service Activities
- ✓ Public Events
- ✓ Ham Fests and Auctions
- ✓ Foxhunts
- ✓ Youth Activities and more



There Is Something Every Night At FLARC!

- ✓ Monday: Near and Far Net
- ✓ Tuesday: DMR Net and Open House at the clubhouse
- ✓ Wednesday: ARES/RACES Net
- ✓ Thursday: Tech Net
- ✓ Friday: Open House at the clubhouse or Kawfee Towk Speaker Series (Monthly via Zoom) Weekends: Open House at the clubhouse, POTA and other station activations, Contests, Foxhunts



Plus:

- A five-position operating station clubhouse
- An active repeater—W2NPT linked with NJ2BS.
- New antennas on the roof
- Monthly VE testing
- An award-winning newsletter
- Monthly speaker programs
- Educational programs and activities
- Active public service participation
- An extensive video education archive

That is Why FLARC is the Most Exciting Club Around!

Come join us In-person or via Zoom for more activities, speakers, and projects!

www.fairlawnarc.org



YouTube

The Club Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night, except when there is a Business Meeting scheduled, from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

2026 Officers, Committees and Assignments

President	Nomar Vizcarrond	NP4H
Vice President	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Treasurer	Bob Antoniuk	N2SU
Secretary	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Trustee	Lowell "Van" VantSlot	W2DLT
Trustee	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Trustee	Skip Barker	KD2BRV
Member Services		
Health & Welfare	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Marketing	Nomar Vizcarrondo Jim Cooper	NP4H W2JC
Program	[open]	
Video/YouTube	[open]	
Social Media	Brian Duddy Thom Guida Dave Marotti	N2BTD W2NZ NK2Q
Photographer	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Community Relations	Gene Ottenheimer Dave Gotlib	WO2W KD2MOB
Field Day 2026	[open]	
Winter Field Day 2026	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Hamfest	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Auction	[open]	
Education	[open]	
Youth Outreach	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Adult Outreach	Lowell "Van" VantSlot Jim Cooper	W2DLT W2JC
VE Testing Coordinator	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Special Events	James Gallo	KB2FMH
Contests	Lowell "Van" VantSlot	W2DLT
FLARC Historian	Fred Belghaus	KR2H [W2AAB]
Webmaster	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Asst. Webmaster	David Kozinn	K2DBK
Technical Chair	Dave deCoons	WO2X
EmComm	Jim Breheny	N2JLF
RACES/ARES Director	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
RACES/ARES Liaison	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
Newsletter Editor	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Newsletter Publisher	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Club Station Manager	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Quartermaster	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
W2NPT Trustee	Jim Cooper	W2JC
NK2H Trustee	Ed Efchak	WX2R

President serves as ex officio to all committees

Want a Call Sign License Plate?

Amateur Radio (Ham operators) license plates may be purchased for a \$15 fee, for passenger vehicles, but not for commercial vehicles or motorcycles. (Applicants must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.)

Call MVC at 609.292.6500 or (toll free in NJ) 888.486.3339 to request an application.

The club has applications from time to time. If you would like an application, visit the "contact us" page, and we'll get one out to you.. Or find the form and detailed instructions at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/vehicles/SP-23.pdf>



Letters:

A feature of *The Resonator*

The editor has received a lot of nice notes, letters and comments about this newsletter and the club in general. We have not published them in the past but going forward we will at least try.

Here are the grounds rules:

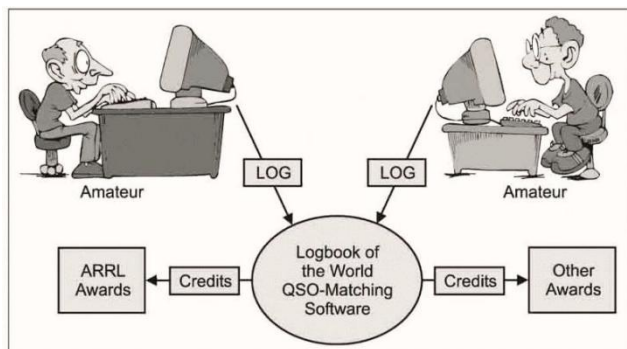
- Please keep all comments as brief and succinct as possible.
- No personal attacks.
- No political rants.
- No comments promoting violence, racism, religious intolerance, vulgarity, obscenity, or other such discourteous behavior.
- The Editor reserves the right to exclude any comments that violate our guidelines and may subject the writer to further disciplinary action by the club.

A QSL card is the final courtesy of an amateur radio contact.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL_card

INCOMING QSL Bureau -- if you have been making on-the-air contacts, you might very well have a package of exciting QSL cards from around the world waiting for you at the incoming QSL Bureau. If you previously received cards from them, check to see if you have any "credits" left by going to https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=869. If you never contacted them, they probably have cards for you! Go to this page -- https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=25 and get some 'credits' to cover the postage for mailing your cards to you.

To learn about the W2 Bureau, https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=30



Those who upload logs to Logbook of the World become eligible to redeem confirmation credits for awards. LoTW wants and needs *all* logs. Uploading is free, so send your logs today!

SIG Group Membership

Here is an update on the Special Interest Groups... many groups have increased in size during the last month. About 45% of all members have joined at least one group.

<u>SIG Name</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Contesting	W2DLT
Digital Voice	N2AAM
Drones *	KB2BEE
EmComm	N2JLF
Mesh Net	W2KBF
Monitoring	WX2R
DX	W2JC
FT8	W2JC
Satellites	N2AAM
Portable Ops	W2MSA
Radio Astronomy	WX2R
Raspberry pi	[open]
Direction Finding	W2KBF
* New group	

Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

Facebook: <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>

Twitter: @FairLawnARC

Youtube: <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Website: <http://FairLawnARC.org>

Sign up for a group... or ...
why not start one?

Contact webmaster@FairLawnARC.org
if you would like to start a new
Special Interest Group.

The Clubhouse Is Open THREE Fridays In April!!

Date	Clubhouse Status
April 3	CLOSED – Business Meeting at Fair Lawn Community Center
April 10	OPEN
April 17	OPEN
April 24	OPEN



Pop-Up Tuesdays are in-person at the club.



Publisher's Note

In the interest of fewer pages and faster reading of The Resonator, as well as less ink and paper when readers print the issue and fewer bits when sent via WinLink, or fewer radions when sent by radio -- we are contemplating the following changes in our style format:

In the first month "s" will be used instead of the soft "c".

Sertainly, sivil servants will resieve this news with joy.

Also, the hard "c" will be replaced with "k".

There will be growing publik enthusiasm with the sekond month change, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20 percent shorter.

With the above changes, publik akseptanse of the new spelling can be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. By the third month, readers will enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always been a deterrent to akurate speling.

Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e"s in the languag is disgrasful and they would go.

By the fourth month, pepl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" by "z" and "w" by "v".

During ze fifz monz, ze unesesary "o" can be dropd from vords kontaning "ou" and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

After zis fifz monz, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and everivun vil find it ezi tu undrstand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru.

Lt us no vot u zink of zis plan.

— editor@FairLawnARC.org

FLARC March 21, 2026 VE Testing Results

Gene W02W reports the following results:

Name	Call	License Earned
Jim Pilinci	KE2ICJ	Technician
Lauren Kozlowski	KE2ICK	Technician
Marc KE2GXG	Changed to	K2KMG

Testing for next month will be at the Fair Lawn Recreation Center.

Twelve Special Interest Groups [SIGs] Already Formed: Any Others?

Club interest continues to grow in the SIGs.

Another recently formed SIG is for those interested in Raspberry Pi and Arduino projects, but now includes DoltYourself (DIY)/Makers kit building, 3D printing and similar topics. Unfortunately, we've heard nothing from the **DIY group** since it was formed.

The **Drone SIG** was requested a couple of months ago and nothing has been heard from them either.

A list of all of the current SIGs is shown on page 10.

Other possible groups, from the member survey, include:

- *Radio Propagation*
- *Antennas and how they work*
- *Ham radio software*
- *Technical assistance to club members*

Anyone interested in leading any of these groups...?

Please contact webmaster@FairLawnARC.org

Vast Archive of FLARC Activities and Info

Members are reminded that we have a large archive of YouTube videos of our previous many years of Kawfee Tawk™ presentations, which cover many aspects of ham radio. Our mostly unsung hero club videographer, Thom W2NZ, has spent thousands of hours of his own time creating really professional quality videos of these 167 presentations. Visit our club YouTube page and you will see all of them listed on the main page, at <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Another large and rather unused archive is that of our seven years of the club newsletter, The Resonator. They provide a nice historical record of the many activities of FLARC over the years, as well as lots of useful info about ham radio and electronics. The entire archive is at <http://newsletters.FairLawnARC.org>

And don't forget the FILES area of our groups.io website, where useful and important info is saved:

<https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/main/files>



Club Apparel — Get Them While They're **RED**!

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you *want* a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event! Great for Field Day!

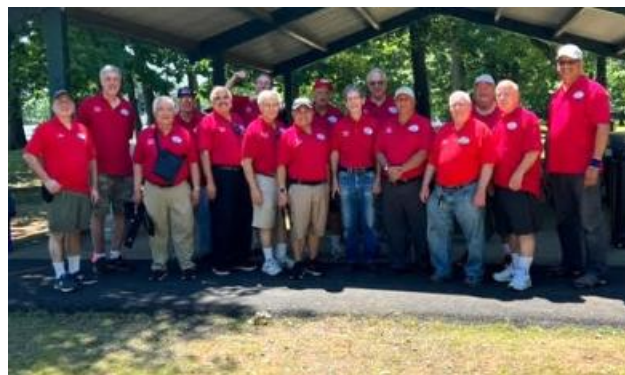
Don't forget.... they're easy to order.

Go to www.hamthreads.com

or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

Check out the item selection that is posted on the **FLARC website (with pictures and prices)**. Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.

And why not WEAR your nice red shirt when you come to the club, especially for meetings and events.



It's easy to spot FLARC members wearing their red club shirts !

Ham Radio Is Contagious And It Won't Make You Sick!!

2026 FLARC Net On The W2NPT Repeater:

Near and Far Net • Mondays at 8PM

W2NPT Repeater and EchoLink

Special Note: *The IRS now requires that we disclose annually the use of paid lobbyists to our members and indicate approximately what percentage of their dues goes toward that. 0% of your dues payment will be used by the club to directly pay a lobbyist firm to lobby on behalf of all our members regarding pending legislation that impacts our hobby. **The ARRL does that for us.***

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NEWHAMS.INFO

Training, information, and encouragement for new amateur radio operators.

<https://newhams.info/>

BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such a gift is worthy.

Thanks!
for your
Support!!

This is YOUR club.... Be a part of it !!

About The Club

The Resonator is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. **The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn.** The club meets every Friday, except when a Business Meeting is scheduled, at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, and on Zoom.

Visitors **ARE ALWAYS** welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470- PL167.9) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has 150 paid members.

Dues are currently \$25 per year;
 \$20 for new members.

For more information, please see our website, at

<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

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FAIR LAWN'S COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!

With Our Antennas On The Roof!



Theoretics Demystified

This time we will talk about how sound travels and how we hear it. We look outside and see our surroundings but are not thinking about what is around us, which is invisible to us, the atmosphere!

The atmosphere is composed of 78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen, which leaves 1% for all the other gases in the atmosphere! We talk about sound waves, but the actual mechanism of sound transmission is a movement of the 'air' around us, just like when you throw a stone into a pond and see the ripples in the water. We do not see those 'air ripples' but they are still there and it gets complicated when there are several 'sounds' coming from several different directions.

The big difference is that unlike water in a pond where the ripples are slow after you throw a stone in, the vibrations from the sound source vibrate the air almost instantaneously in accordance with the 'sound' that was made.

The speed at which the vibrations travel in air is about a mile in five seconds, but 'sound' that travels in other materials such as glass, wood and other solid objects 'travels' at much slower rates. Sound cannot travel in a vacuum such as space as there is nothing to carry the vibrations.

When we hear a sound, we do not think about what is carrying the sound since 'air' is invisible to us. As noted before, we live in a gas environment – the atmosphere!

Sound waves are longitudinal waves, which means that the movement of the oscillation [the sound] is the same as the direction that the wave travels. This means that pressure of the sound components varies in the same direction as the wave travels.

The drawing in Figure 1 shows that the sound from the speaker is moving from the speaker toward the listener and the sound is causing compression and expansion of the wave [as part of the sound] called refraction.

In other words, the wave and the differences that produce sound are both moving toward the

listener from the speaker. Keep in mind that this drawing is a simplification of sound, but you get the idea.

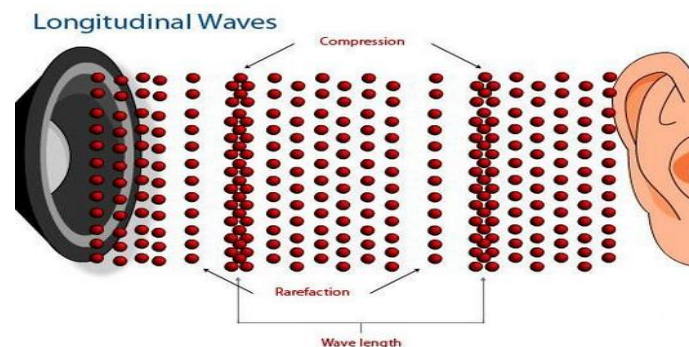


Figure 1.

How we 'hear' a sound is that the pressure of the sound wave moves the Tympanic membrane inside the ear which, through a series of small bones, produces the vibration at the Cochlea further inside the ear and that tiny organ generates electrical impulses that the brain interprets as sound.

The diagram in Figure 2 shows the ear – internal and external. Note that the shape of the outer ear helps us determine the direction that sound comes from.

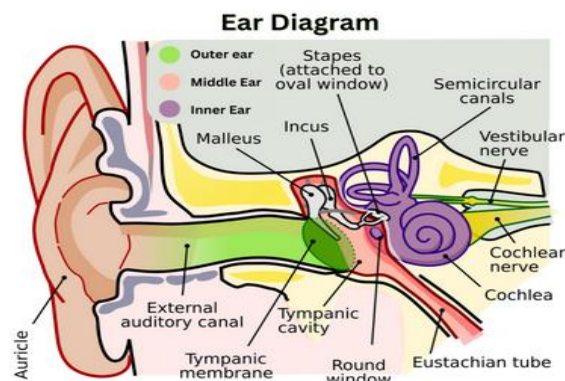


Figure 2.

It is vitally important to protect your hearing by avoiding very loud or prolonged sounds. If the hearing is damaged, the damage is permanent. So, keep volume levels on the low side. As hams we sometime forget this in our excitement of being on the air. This is why an understanding of sound and how we use it is so important to us hams. So, watch your headphone volume and radio loudspeaker volume because hearing loss is irreversible.

Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

Contest Corner

A lot happened at Hamcation - here is some info for the Resonator.

1) Lori and I attended the POTA hookup at the Wekiwa Springs State Park in Orlando, on Thursday, Feb. 12th. About 250 folks from around the country attended.

I activated the park, made about 22 contacts, one of whom was our own Steve WI2W using his remote from his office. All contacts were made on 20 meters, condition were good.

2) On Friday, Lori and I attended the Florida Contest Group (FCG) dinner at the usual VFW hall. The dinner was the usual catered pulled pork and pulled beef - with all the trimmings. A couple of highlights were:

A. The guest speaker was Dave Pascoe KM3T who did a good job of reminding us all of our early ham history - he had the room in stitches with his Jean Shepherd style talk.

B. I met with a long time contester who most of us have worked - none other than the judge John Laney III, K4BAI. I have always enjoyed meeting him at Dayton and other hamfests. He always looks very dapper and friendly - and he is an A1 contester on both CW and SSB. [Pictures attached.](#)

C. But the highlight of the evening was the calling of the Major First prize - by saying the winner was "a W" - which could have been one of several dozen in attendance; then teased by saying the call continued with "a 2," that narrowed the field considerably. Then he added "a D" and that about finalized it. I had won the Grand Prize - a brand new Icom 7610 transceiver... WOW! I was thrilled.

3) Saturday was a tiring day at Hamvention. I met Ed WX2R and Tony (a former FLARC member) but I missed Noel N2OEL, who was reportedly there.

Then, that evening, Lori and I attended the Hamcation Banquet - which I expected would be a large annual event - but it turns out it was the first Banquet they'd held for Hamcation in 18 YEARS. (They decided to start it up as an annual event again after many years. It was at the Rosen Hotel in Orlando and I must say, I've never had a more delicious, fresh, well prepared buffet dinner ANYWHERE I've been.)

The guest speaker was Bob Interbizen NQ1R who did an excellent job of entertaining the crowd of about 150.

I was so exhausted I didn't even go back to the fairgrounds on Sunday - to finish up and stay for the drawing of all the unclaimed hourly prizes. (I figured nothing could top the FCG prize anyway).

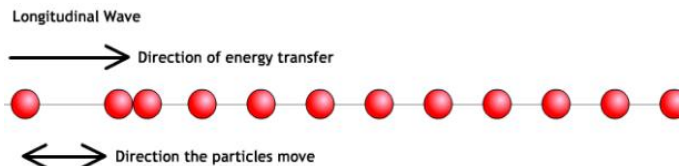
[Photos on page 19]

de W2DLT

Hamspeak

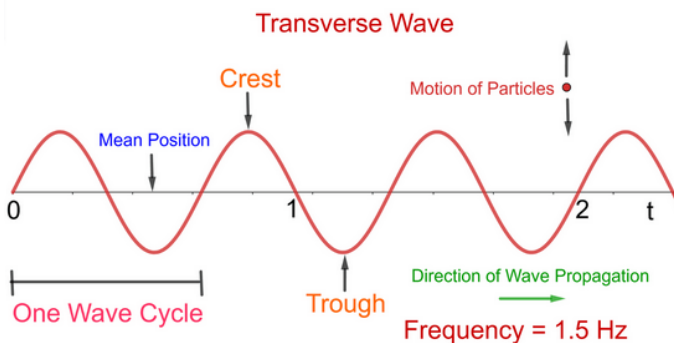
LONGITUDINAL WAVE:

A wave in which the information changes traveling in the wave move in the same direction that the wave is traveling.



TRANSVERSE WAVE:

A wave where the particles or information move perpendicular to the waves traveling motion.



Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

Curator's Corner

Recently I have been asked to renovate the showcases at the Club. This will involve doing inventory and storing unused artifacts and presenting the showcase results in the Resonator. The results will be presented in a column called "The Curator's Corner". Looking forward to having the column in the future.

Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

A curator is a custodian or manager of collections in museums, galleries, or libraries, responsible for acquiring, caring for, and interpreting items to educate the public.



Contest SIG Report



APRIL CONTESTS

NOTE: No contests on WARC bands (30m, 17m & 12m).

March 28 – 0000Z Saturday (8 PM EDT, Friday) to 2359Z Saturday (7:59 PM EDT, Sunday). **CQWW WPX SSB**. 160-10 Meters. Everybody works everybody (U.S., Canada, DX); Exchange: RST + Serial Number (starting with 001); Different points for working same continent and different continents. Multipliers are total number of unique prefixes worked (counted only once regardless of band). Complete rules:

<https://cqwpw.com/rules/>

April 4 – 1200Z Saturday (8 AM EDT) to 1200Z Sunday, April 5 (8 AM EDT). **EA (Spain) RTTY Contest**. 160-10 meters. Contacts from North America to EA stations, 3 pts; contacts with non-EA stations, 1 pt., various Multipliers. Complete rules:

<https://concursos.ure.es/en/earty/bases/>

April 4 – 1400Z Saturday (10 AM EDT) to 0200Z April 5 (10 PM EDT Saturday). **Louisiana QSO Party**. 160-10 meters, CW, SSB, Digital; Multipliers: Louisiana Parishes (Counties).

Complete Rules: <https://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/laqso-rules-html/>

April 4 – 1400Z Saturday (10 AM EDT) to 0200Z April 5 (10 PM EDT Saturday). **Mississippi QSO Party**. 160-10 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY, FT4/FT8; Multipliers: Mississippi Counties + Mississippi Grid Squares).

Complete Rules: <https://arrlmiss.org/>

April 4 – 1500Z Saturday (11 AM EDT) to 1500Z Sunday (11 AM EDT). **SP (Poland) DX Contest**. 160-10 meters, CW, SSB, Mixed; Single band, All Bands; SP Exchange: RST + Single letter Province; Non-SP: RST + Serial number. Complete Rules:

<https://spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl/2024/rules.php>

April 6 – 0000Z Monday (8 PM EDT Sunday) to 0100Z Monday (9 PM EDT Sunday). **K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST)**. 160-10 meters CW. Typical speeds about 15, but no more than 20 WPM. Exchange: Name + State/Province/Country. Complete Rules:

<https://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

April 10 – 2000Z (8 PM EDT Friday) to 2100Z (9 PM EDT Friday) **K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST)**. 160-10 meters. Exchange: Name + State/Province/Country. Complete rules: <https://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

April 11 – 0000Z Saturday (8 PM EDT Friday, April 10) to 0600Z (2 AM EDT Saturday) **QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party**. CW only, 160 – 10 + 6.

Complete Rules: <http://qrparci.org/contest/spring-qso-party>

April 11 – 1200Z Saturday (8 AM EDT) to 1159Z (7:59 AM EDT Sunday April 12). **Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest**. 160-10 meters, CW, SSB, Satellite. Exchange: RST + ITU Zone (NJ is Zone 8). Complete Rules: <https://gccontest.ru/en/rules-gc-2025/>

April 11 – 1200Z Saturday (8 AM EDT) to 0200Z Sunday (10 PM EDT Saturday). **New Mexico QSO Party**.

160-10 + 6 meters, CW, Phone, Digital. Complete Rules: <https://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/>

April 11 – 2 sessions: 1400Z (10 AM EDT Saturday) to 0400Z (12 Midnight Saturday);

1400Z (10 AM EDT Sunday April 12) to 2000Z (4 PM EDT Sunday). **Missouri QSO Party**. 160-10 meters, CW, Phone, Digital. Complete Rules:

https://www.w0ma.org/mo_qso_party/results/thisyear/moqp-2026-rules-final.pdf

April 11 – 2 sessions: 1800Z (2 PM EDT Saturday) to 0359Z Sunday April 12 (11:59 PM EDT Saturday); 1400Z (10 AM EDT Sunday) to 2359Z (7:59 PM EDT Sunday April 12). **Georgia QSO Party**. 160-6 meters CW, Phone.

Complete Rules: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=328>

April 11 – 1800Z (2 PM EDT Saturday) to 1800Z (2 PM EDT Sunday). **North Dakota QSO Party**. 160-10 meters, CW, Phone, RTTY, PSK only, NO FT8. Complete Rules: https://ndarrlsection.com/2026/2026_nd_qsp_party_rules.pdf

April 13 – 0000Z Monday (8 PM EDT Sunday) to 0100Z Monday (9 PM EDT Sunday). **K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST)**. CW only, 160-10 meters. Exchange: Name + State/Province/Country.

Complete Rules: <https://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

April 17 – 2000Z to 2100Z (8 PM to 9 PM EDT Friday). **K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST)**. CW only, 160-10 meters. Exchange: name + State/Province/Country. Complete rules: <https://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

April 18 – 0900Z Saturday (5 AM EDT Saturday) to 2359Z April 19 (7 PM EDT Sunday). **CQMM Contest (Brazil)**

80-10 meters, CW only. Exchange: RST + Continent abbreviation NA, SA, EU, AS. CWJF Members add "M". Complete rules:

<https://www.cqmmcx.com/rules>

Contest SIG, continued —

April 18 – 1600Z Saturday (4 PM EDT) to 2359Z Sunday April 19 (7:59 PM EDT Sunday). **Michigan QSO Party.**

80-10 meters, CW and SSB. Complete rules: <https://miqp.org/index.php/rules/>

April 18 – 2 sessions: 1800Z (2 PM EDT Saturday) to 0300Z April 19 (11 PM EDT Saturday), and 1200Z (8 AM EDT Sunday) to 2000Z (4 PM EDT Sunday). **Ontario QSO Party.** 160-10 meters, CW and Phone. Exchange: Ontario stations: RST + County; Non-Ontario stations: RST + State/Province/Country.

Complete rules: <https://www.va3cco.com/ogp/rules.htm>

April 19 – 1300Z Sunday (9 AM EDT) to 2400Z Sunday (8 PM EDT). **Quebec QSO Party.** 80-10 meters, CW and Phone. Exchange: Quebec stations: RST + QC Zone; Non-Quebec stations: RST + State/Province/Country.

Complete rules: <https://quebecqsoparty.org/>

April 19 – 1800Z Sunday (2 PM EDT) to 2359Z (7:59 PM EDT). **ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB.**

80-10 meters (see Rules for suggested frequencies and other info). Complete rules: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

April 20 – 0000Z Monday (8 PM EDT Sunday, April 19) to 0100Z Monday (9 PM EDT Sunday). **K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST).** 160-10 meters, CW only. Complete rules: <https://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

April 24 – 2000Z Friday (4 PM EDT) to 2100Z Friday (5 PM EDT). **K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST).** 160-10 meters, CW only. Complete rules: <https://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

April 25 – 1200Z Saturday (8 AM EDT) to 1200Z Sunday (8 AM EDT April 26). **UK/EI DX Contest, CW.** (U.K. stations and Ireland work the world). 80-10 meters, CW only.

Complete rules: <https://www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php>

April 25 – 1300Z Saturday (9 AM EDT) to 1259Z (8:59 AM EDT, Sunday, April 26). **Helvetia Contest (Switzerland).** 160-10 meters, CW, SSB and digital. Swiss stations work the world. Multipliers are Swiss Cantons.

Complete rules: <https://uska.ch/en/events/uska-helvetia-contest-h26/#>

April 25 – 1400Z Saturday (10 AM EDT) to 0200Z Monday (10 PM EDT Sunday, April 26). **Nebraska QSO Party.**

160-10 meters, CW, Phone, Digital (non-FT4/8) and FT4/8. Complete rules: <https://nebraskagsoparty.com/qso-party-rules/f/rules-for-2022-nebraska-qso-party>

April 25 – 2 sessions: 1600Z Saturday (12:00 PM EDT) to 0159Z Sunday (9:59 PM EDT Saturday); and 1200Z Sunday April 26 (8 AM EDT) to 2159Z Sunday (9:59 PM EDT). **Florida QSO Party.** 40-10 meters, CW and Phone.

[NOTE: The Florida QP is one of the most active and enjoyable state QSO Parties of all, IMO].

Complete rules: <https://fgp.contesting.com/fgpsubmitlog.php>

April 26 – 0000Z Monday (8 PM EDT Sunday) to 0100Z (9 PM EDT). **K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST).**

160-10 meters, CW only. Complete rules: <https://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

(All data derived from the WA7BNM Contest Calendar).

73, Fred KR2H

Photos from Hamcation 2026 (tnx W2DLT)



A Revised Digital Network Box - "DNB2"

— by Gordon W2TTT

INTRODUCTION

The Revised Digital Network Box or "DNB2" offers a flexible platform for networking that one can configure in a variety of ways. It is a direct descendent of the original platform. This article describes the genesis and gaps of the original DNB, its evolution into the DNB2 and a discussion of future possibilities for additional Digital "X" Boxes based on the availability of components. This article seeks to go beyond the more common "Go Box" platform solutions to address more mission-specific capabilities than bringing a HF or VHF-UHF radio into an EMCOMM or POTA context. Much of my portable gear supports these use cases, but there is also a pile of gear and tools focused on bringing AREDN Mesh nodes to the field along with key application, integration and support elements.

DNB

Several years ago, I built a Digital Network Box with a few basic objectives including a Mikrotik hAP router running AREDN Mesh software, some battery capacity, a cellular modem and storage for accessories such as an external AREDN Mesh RF node charger/power supply and cables. The hAP node provides a 2.4 MHz Wi-Fi access point, three LAN ports, a WAN port for cases where the cellular modem or a physical network connection can be used. It also had the option of accessing a WAN via 5 GHz Wi-Fi networks.

This box started with a basic set of objectives which were largely met; however their implementation was somewhat evolutionary and grew in response to organic requirements taken from the field. For example, the original 7AH battery grew to a 12AH battery and then to a pair of 9AH batteries from Bioennopower. Having 18AH of battery capacity allowed us to have post-hurricane Internet access for a day or so without charging. 3M Dual-Loc strips were used to secure batteries, nodes, a 12VDC USB power block for the cellular modem, and the occasional DMR hotspot – all into the bottom of a Harbor Freight Apache 2800 case. It was also used to secure an aluminum plate that was

installed over these components for neat layering of additional components. I could not find a form-fitting panel, but Amazon had an aluminum rectangular plate that covered much of the footprint without cutting and drilling. This allowed space for several different Netgear 4G/LTE modems. Ultimately, it was an LM-1200/1300 modem that proved functional and cost effective.

Later, it was realized that we needed a laptop or an RPi (Raspberry Pi tiny computer) with a screen, keyboard and touchpad. Almost on cue came the flood of surplus Evolve III Windows 12VDC laptops that fit neatly inside the case, but not without a few tough issues to address.

The aluminum plate was too low to mount the laptop in the bottom part of the case, so we secured the screen portion of the laptop to the case lid with strips of Dual-Loc and used screws and cut off large zip-ties to create retention tabs. This allowed us to pull down the keyboard/touchpad from the case lid. The keyboard would comfortably rest on the modem at a proper height. Access to the left side of the laptop with power, USB3 and mini-HDMI was messy and mechanically unreliable. To make it worse, the wrap-under mini-HDMI male to HDMI female adapter and HDMI male-male cable had no reasonable path through the bulkhead of the case.

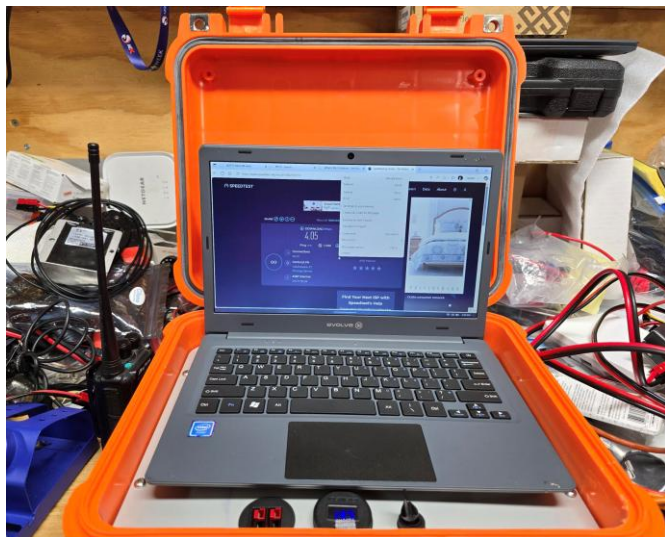
When we needed to present a large video or slide show, we needed to crack open the case to allow for an HDMI cable to egress. Finally, we had to pull up on the aluminum plate to connect and disconnect the batteries.

This was really ugly and annoying, but so functional that we used it for several years without issues. There were other issues, but we'll discuss them in the context of how we implemented improvements.

THE DNB2

The new Digital Network Box or "DNB2" retains all the same features, but streamlines and enhances the appearance, functionality and the robustness of the unit.

Continued on next page.

Digital Network Box - "DNB2" continued

These measures include:

Batteries

The two 9AH Bioenpower LiFePo4 HARD SHELL batteries were retained and moved from the original unit to the DNB2. The batteries were placed bottom to bottom and relocated to the top left corner to conserve space.

Hard shell batteries are mechanically more robust than the shrink-wrapped types. They offer better protection for the Battery Management System (BMS), the cells and their connections. Don't cut corners when you are holding a huge amount of energy in your hand or on your back!

**The DNB2 Panel**

The DNB2 panel is a finished proper panel with internal Anderson PowerPole connectors, a voltmeter with a dual USB A and USB C power outlet and a power switch, so there is no more pulling connectors apart to turn the unit off. This photo was taken prior to the installation of the power switch.

**Panel Sourcing & Options**

The DNB2 uses a form-fitted aluminum panel designed for the Apache 2800 case from a company called "Data-Pro." The panels aren't cheap and shipping drove me to buy two for economies of scale. You can even buy it installed in a case (Apache or other) and punched and populated with a wide variety of connectors, controls and indicators. All parts placed through the panel and case were hand measured and drilled.

<https://www.datapro.net/cgi-bin/search?terms=apache+2800>



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Digital Network Box - "DNB2" continued**Fuse Protection & Power Distribution**

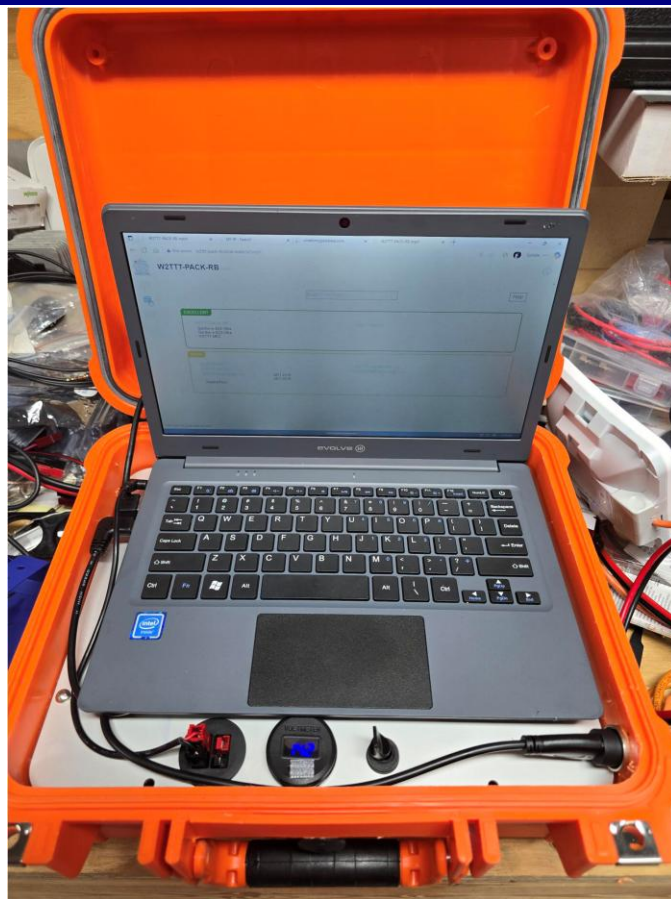
In the original unit not everything was fused and now everything in the DNB2 is fused for safety. The DNB2 uses #12 and #14 molded ATC fuse holders with leads to make a one-to-four power distribution cable assembly with WAGO 221-615 connectors. The batteries, the internal and external Anderson PowerPole duplex bulkhead connectors and the main power switch also used several smaller WAGO connectors. Lower current needs were met with #14 fuse holders and wire along with WAGO connectors. A metal six position Anderson PowerPole distribution block was also installed in the lower section of the Apache case.

**Boosting 12-14.6VDC to 24VDC**

Because we sometimes struggled with voltage drop in the original unit through the Mikrotik hAP AREDN Mesh node to the RF mesh node, we added a 12 to 24 VDC booster. This runs the Mikrotik AREDN mesh node and its remote Power over Ethernet (PoE) RF node with improve flexibility and reliability when up a pole or routed a distance out of a vehicle. Almost any 3Amp or larger voltage booster model on Amazon is fine.

HDMI Port

The external HDMI video will go through a bulkhead connector instead having to leave the case cover open. The angled mini-HDMI connector cable is routed across the front of the panel to the HDMI bulkhead connector on the right.

**RJ-45 Jacks, PowerPole & HDMI Bulkhead Connectors**

Another feature of the DNB2 is the use of smaller and less expensive RJ-45 jacks. This allowed for closer jack spacing without crowding. Further, the weather resistance is sufficient.

You will also notice that on both the original and DNB2 units, all the connectors are on the right hand side. This was intentional, as it allows for neater cable management and to have some free "uncrushed" space for connectors when carried in an EmComm type of backpack. Examples of these backpacks include:

The Roaring Fire Tactical Backpack - very useful and affordable

<https://a.co/d/0fOmctvV>

The Kelyt Raven 2500 - Discontinued. Hard to find. Includes built-in rain cover.

<https://www.amazon.com/Kelty-Tactical-Raven-2500-Backpack/dp/B003WXUFL6?th=1>

Continued on next page.

Digital Network Box - "DNB2" continued

The Eberlestock Romad - top choice

<https://eberlestock.com/products/r4-romad?variant=46211854336236>

I own at least one of each of the packs listed above and often add additional pouches using the MOLLE attachment system. They all can accommodate the Apache 2800 case in some manner.

The photo below was taken before the HDMI bulkhead connector was installed above the Anderson PowerPole bulkhead connector. The black screws are holding up the angled panel brackets. Two were used on each side.

**Shielding & RF Immunity**

The issue of shielding in the jacks was raised and met with the point that the Apache 2800 case and everything in it is using unshielded Ethernet ports and cables without issues. With nearby 100+W HF-VHF-UHF transmitters along with receivers with antennas not having problems, we have a level of confidence in the system. Your operating environment might require a complete component, case and cable "refit" if higher power or an "unfortunate" configuration should emerge.

Evolve III Windows 10/11 Computer

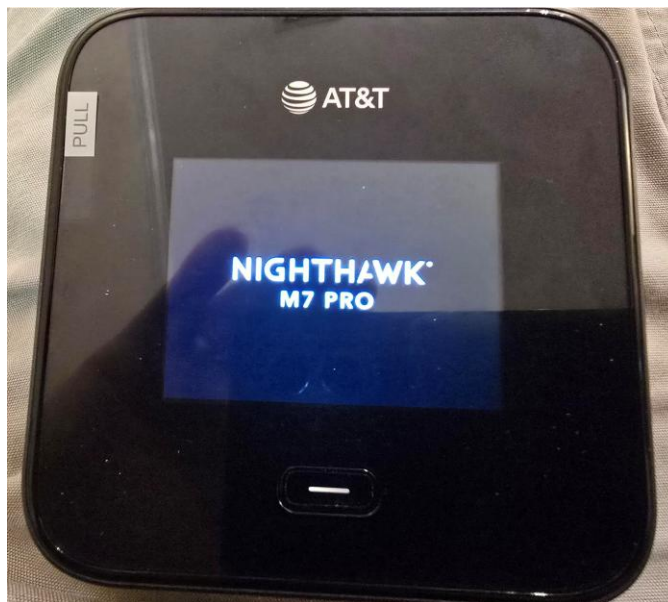
The computer is mounted on the panel and not in the lid as was done previously. With the higher placement of the panel in the DNB2, we can easily access the computer's keyboard and touchpad. The 12VDC power input and the USB3 and the mini-HDMI cables are all angled connectors with the USB3 facing rearward behind the display and the others toward the front.



The Evolve III laptop computer

5G Modem Upgrade

The modem has been upgraded to a Netgear Nighthawk M7 Pro 5G cellular modem which works on cellular bands from 594 MHz to 3.98 GHz. This unit is currently locked to AT&T and provides a substantial improvement over my 4G/LTE cellular modem where service is supported.

**Internal Accessory Storage**

The lid has room for the charger, 5G cellular modem, a voltage and current monitor, an external AREDN Mesh RF node and cables. We can also carry a small Pi Zero W DMR or other hotspot inside.

[See photo on next page]

Continued on next page.

Digital Network Box - "DNB2" continued**OPTIONS AND ADAPTATIONS****PC Issues**

While DNB2 offers lots of capabilities, for its PC we are considering the reality of the end of Windows 10 Extended Support and a migration of the Evolve III to an unsupported Windows 10 or 11 installation, or to a compact version of Linux. Open Office and various media players run on all of these.

Higher Capacity Computing

Sitting about here is an older Windows 11-compatible Intel i7 NUC with 24 GB of RAM and two HDMI outputs that, with a USB3 adapter, could support three video outputs. This computer runs on 19VDC and yes, there are several 12 to 19VDC voltage boosters and 12AH LiFePo4 batteries available. Two of these batteries would provide some resilient power even with accessories.

Linux & Storage Boneyard Revival

There are times when one needs a small format Linux box for specialized processes and storage. It wouldn't take much to dig out an idle RPi 2/3/4 and SSDs to accomplish these tasks. Having a lightweight network server or servers is another likely project.

Networking and Timing Bits

There are also spare Mikrotik hAP and hAC AREDN Mesh nodes, small managed 12VDC switches and a number of GPS units and GPS-Disciplined Oscillators that could be included in a project.

Leftovers in the Junkbox

As mentioned earlier, the batteries from the original DNB unit were repurposed into the DNB2, but so were the Mikrotik AREDN Mesh nodes. This leaves the question of what to do with the old Apache 2800 DNB case, another brand-new one and the second form-fitted panel, which happens to be black anodized. These sit with several Apache 3800 and 4800 cases. With another Data-Pro panel, a nicely finished project or projects could emerge rather quickly.

Cooling fans and filter screens, DC switch plates and interface plates, bulkhead connectors, RigRunners, temperature and voltage sensors, IP cameras and VOIP phones are all on hand, so more digital boxes are likely to emerge.

Ideas?

It might be interesting to hear your project ideas. These Digital "X" Boxes can go in a variety of directions and your ideas would be welcome! The objective here is that they are deployable as a type of "Go Box".

Thoughts?

73,

Gordon Beattie, W2TTT

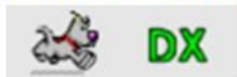
[201.314.6964](tel:201.314.6964)

W2TTT@ATT.NET

Gordon.BeattieJr@VIAVISolutions.us

Get On The Air!

DX Special Interest Group Update



The Night W2NPT Worked the Galaxy

It was a typical Tuesday evening at the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club station. Radios hummed across the operating desk, coax cables snaked around the patch panel, and someone had left a half-finished cup of coffee next to the logging laptop.

Nomar NP4H looked around the shack.

"Alright guys, let's fire things up."

Steve WI2W was already spinning the dial on the VHF rig. "Bands have been strange tonight. Propagation is doing something weird."

Jim W2JC stared at the antenna meter like a scientist studying an experiment. "SWR is perfect."

Dave N2AAM, who had quietly eaten two donuts already, said through a mouthful of powdered sugar, "Try the repeater."

Steve keyed the microphone.

"W02X repeater, this is W2NPT, the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club station monitoring."

The speaker crackled.

Then a voice came back—clear, steady... and definitely not local.

"Station calling, W2NPT, please confirm your planetary designation."

Everyone in the room froze.

Noel W2MSA slowly turned in his chair.

"...Did he say planetary designation?"

Dave whispered:
"Steve... check the frequency."

Steve glanced at the display.

"145.470."

Nomar crossed his arms.

"That's our repeater."

Jim leaned toward the radio speaker.

"Okay, someone's messing with us."

Steve keyed the mic again.

"Station calling, please identify."

The reply came immediately.

"This is exploratory vessel ET0DX, currently operating from orbital relay above your planet."

Silence filled the shack.

Dave slowly set down his donut.

Noel blinked twice. "Orbital... relay?"

Jim leaned closer to the radio.

"Alright, whoever this is... nice joke."

The voice returned calmly.

"We assure you this transmission is legitimate. Your signals were detected during a search for intelligent communications."

Dave raised his hand.

"I vote we don't tell them about the donuts."

Laughter broke out in the shack.

Steve checked the S-meter.

"Guys... the signal is S9 plus 40."

Nomar grabbed the mic.

"ET0DX, this is W2NPT in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. Confirm you are not transmitting from Earth."

A short pause.

"Affirmative. Our vessel is orbiting your planet at approximately twenty-seven thousand kilometers per hour."

Jim whispered:

"Best mobile station ever."

Steve leaned forward.

"ET0DX, what kind of antenna are you running?"

The reply came with pride.

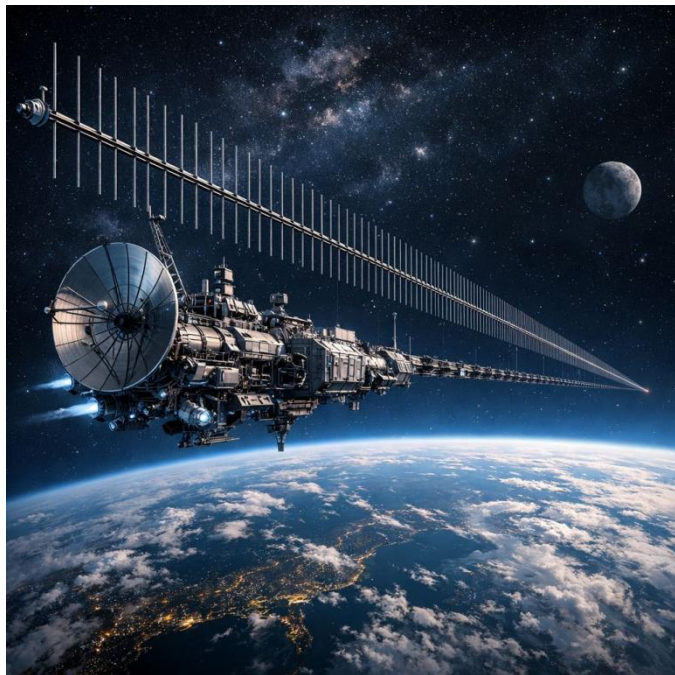
"Our primary antenna array measures approximately three kilometers in length."

Jim's jaw dropped.

Continued on next page.

DX SIG Report, continued.

“Three kilometers?! That’s the biggest Yagi in the universe!”



Noel was already writing furiously in the logbook.

“Guys... we are literally working interplanetary DX.”

Dave leaned into the microphone.

“ETØDX, your signal report is 59 plus 60.”

“Excellent. Your signal is also strong. Our crew is very excited to make contact.”

Steve grinned. “Crew?”

“Yes. We are fascinated by your activity called... ham radio. It appears to be... a contact sport.”



The room erupted in laughter.

Nomar shook his head, smiling.

“Well ETØDX, congratulations. You’ve just made contact with the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club, station W2NPT.”

A moment passed before the alien station replied:

“Thank you, W2NPT. You are the first operators we have contacted on this planet.”

Dave leaned back in his chair and looked around the shack.

“Well boys...”

He folded his arms proudly.

“I think FLARC just won DXCC for the entire galaxy.”

Reported by Nomar NP4H,
with his assistant friend Artistic Ingrid.

**FLARC & WO2X
REPEATER ALLIANCE**

Expanding Coverage Across Northern & Central New Jersey
NYC • Rockland County • Westchester County

FAIR LAWN
70 YEARS N J 1956 2026
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

WO2X
ALPINE, NJ

FLARC VHF Repeater
145.470 MHz
Offset: -600 kHz
PL: 167.9
• Drive-time participation
• Casual communication 24/7

WO2X UHF Repeater
Located at: Armstrong Tower – Alpine, NJ
442.700 MHz
Offset: +5 MHz
TX PL: 97.4
RX PL: 141.3

• ARRL Audio News — Mondays 7:45 PM
• Near & Far Net — Mondays 8:00 PM
• BARA Tech Net — Thursdays 9:00 PM

Be Part of the New Alliance



FLARC PortableOps SIG

PortableOps@FairLawnARC.groups.io

This is a Special Interest Group (SIG) for members interested in portable ham radio operation such as POTA, SOTA, IOTA, LOTA, etc. The purpose of this SIG is to get outdoors and practice our operating skills from different places. We can share outing experiences, tips and work on our operating skills.

KA2YRA reports:

I am proud to announce the addition of the following new POTA site in New Jersey —

Reference	Park	County
US-13117	D.O.D. Ponds WMA	Salem

A Different Kind of “Eyeball QSO”

Skip KD2BRV recently took a break from his ham radio activities for a rail trip to Florida and back.

An “eyeball QSO” is a ham term for meeting someone face-to-face rather than on the air. Skip had a slightly different variation, and he sent in this report —

After I got on my Amtrak train from DC to NYC, I did my usual look around to see who is near me... I looked to my left and I did a double take.

I said to myself... “Self... that looks like President Biden sitting across the aisle from me.”

The person sitting next to me says: “YES, it is. I’m his aide.” I asked him if it was possible to meet him? He said he would see what he could do, but not till we get to his stop in Wilmington.

I saw him go over to President Biden and whisper something in his ear. At the Wilmington stop, after all other passengers departed, President Biden came over to me and we briefly talked and then shook hands.

This was an experience I had never put on my bucket list, but I quickly added it and checked it off.

Something I will never forget!





ATTENTION!

FLARC MEMBERS

PAY YOUR DUES

ONLINE NOW!

70 YEARS N **J 1956 2026**

FAIR LAWN

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEW DUES, RENEWAL, & DONATIONS CAN BE SENT VIA ZELLE!

! DUE PAYMENTS NEEDED ASAP TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP ACTIVE!

zelle

PAY ASAP

- Log into your Zelle account
- Use phone number **201-240-9317** as the recipient
- Include your Call Sign & year(s) in the notes section

Log in and pay your dues before you miss out!

If you need help, or want added assurance – email treasurer@FairLawnARC.org

Visit: www.FairLawnARC.org for more info!

For a PDF form that can be filled in on-line, then printed and mailed with check, [CLICK HERE](#)

Or you can print this page, fill it in and mail to the address shown at the bottom.



Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club

*Fair Lawn Recreation and Community Center
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410*

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Name _____ Call _____
Address _____ PO Box _____ Ste./Apt # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Roster Published Phone # _____ Unpublished Phone # _____
Roster Published EMAIL _____ License class: _____

Check all that apply ARRL Member ? RACES Member ? ARES Member ? CERT ? VE ?

Additional Family Members (In same household) --

Name _____ Call _____

Name _____ Call _____

Introductory and Student Membership \$ 20 \$ _____
(Students under the age of 18 eligible for student membership)
(Introductory membership open to new members
or not a member in last 7 yrs)

Associate Membership * (No Fee)

* Open to Fair Lawn Residents Only. No voting rights or other privileges.

Renewal of Current Membership \$ 25 \$ _____

Three Year Renewal Incentive \$ 65 \$ _____

(Single memberships only, family memberships excluded)

Additional Family Members # _____ at \$ 5 each \$ _____

Life Membership \$ 625 \$ _____

Senior Life Membership (65 yrs. of age or over) \$ 250 \$ _____

Equipment Fund Donation, above regular membership dues \$ _____

Total submitted \$ _____

_____ Date _____

I hereby acknowledge the By laws and rules and regulations of the club and will abide by them as amended

Please Note: Memberships are NOT Pro-Rated. Membership is from Jan 1st to Dec. 31st of any given year unless documented otherwise.

Please make your dues check payable to the "Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club" and remit to the following address:

**Fair Lawn ARC
– Attn: Treasurer
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

April 2026

FLARC Business Meeting Minutes

Meeting Summary for FLARC April KawfeeTawk & Meeting

Apr 03, 2026 06:16 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Quick recap

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club held their monthly meeting beginning with a special presentation by Ed Wilson, Hudson Division Director of the ARRL, who discussed the league's STEM education initiatives, including the Teachers Institute of Wireless Technology program and scholarship opportunities for students.

The club's financial report showed recent expenses including \$1,121.37 for web hosting (3 year renewal) and domain services.

The meeting covered upcoming events, including a portable day at Memorial Park on April 25th and plans for June Field Day, while also addressing membership updates showing 134 paid members, though 40 of those were life members or had multi-year payments. Technical committee updates included plans to install power strips to neaten the wiring at the operating positions, and the successful upgrade of the Zoom laptop to Windows 11.

Next steps

- Tech committee: Purchase and install additional 18-outlet power strips for operator positions (to be sent to board for recommendation)
- Jim (W2JC): Purge non-member accounts from Groups.I/O after current membership reconciliation
- Gene: Send email to members about Portable Day on April 25th to confirm food count
- Gene: Recruit additional volunteers for June Field Day and assign roles to those who haven't volunteered
- Gene/Steve: Plan fall Portable Day combined with a POTA activation at Garrett Mountain - determine date and costs
- Jim (W2JC)/Chris (KE2NJ): Send reminder about Lighthouse weekend (August 15-16) via Resonator and updated website
- Gene: Implement scheduling system for W1AW 250th anniversary operations and notify members
- Gene: Send information to Henry KB2BEE about ARRL membership/club commission program
- Gene: Present gift to Ed Wilson at next opportunity
- Jim: Update club website with all upcoming events and activities
- Gene: Email members about the need for volunteers for 250th anniversary operations

Continued on next page.

April 2026 FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

- Gene: Email members about the May Old Timers Night event
- Gene: Email members about the June Field Day planning meeting
- Gene: Email members about the July program (once secured)

<https://usns200m.us/.meetingid=vyenzy10d11vdq100xw--dstopid=0020020210c1111d013b0f0e791>

Summary

Senior Center Closure Discussion

The meeting began with President Nomar discussing the Senior Center's closure due to repairs. The group then prepared for a business meeting, confirming a quorum was present. Nomar introduced Ed Wilson, the Hudson Division Director, who spoke about the importance of the ARRL and highlighted the HOA Act currently in Congress. Ed mentioned a QR code for supporting the act.

Congressional Bill 1094 Updates

The meeting covered updates on Congressional Bill 1094, which is progressing through Congress after receiving approximately 85,000 letters of support from ham radio operators.

Ed Wilson explained that the ARRL is actively promoting STEM education through their Teachers Institute for Wireless Technology program, which introduces wireless technology and amateur radio to teachers who can then incorporate it into their curriculum. The discussion included examples of successful model schools in Erie, Pennsylvania and Staten Island, New York, where teachers have been effectively integrating these technologies into education. N2JLF suggested introducing students to practical applications of amateur radio like digital modes and mesh networks rather than traditional ham radio operations, which Ed Wilson acknowledged as a strategy they use to engage teachers first before introducing the broader hobby.

ARRL Educational Initiatives Presentation

Ed Wilson presented on ARRL's updated mission statement and educational initiatives. Key changes include adding next-generation development to the mission and introducing student membership options. The presentation highlighted the Teachers Institute of Wireless Technology program, which provides professional development and resources for integrating STEM concepts into classrooms, including equipment and lesson plans.

Ed Wilson also discussed various educational partnerships, including with the International Space Station and Girl Scouts, as well as scholarship programs that have distributed over \$1 million annually to amateur radio operators. The presentation concluded with suggestions for getting involved, including supporting the Diamond Fund, mentoring teachers, and building strong local clubs to support new amateur radio participants.

April 2026 FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

QRZ Page Maintenance Discussion

Ed Wilson discussed the importance of maintaining detailed QRZ pages for amateur radio operators, particularly to help new hams initiate conversations and promote radio clubs. He recommended that VEs inform new candidates about QRZ.com and suggested clubs provide welcoming emails with local information and club recommendations.

Ed Wilson also emphasized the value of creating welcoming environments in radio clubs to support new members and encourage their long-term involvement.

Amateur Radio Club Growth Strategies

Ed Wilson discussed strategies to grow their amateur radio club, including reaching out to Linux users, maker communities, hackers, and 3D printing enthusiasts. He emphasized the importance of welcoming new members and avoiding dismissive attitudes that can drive people away. Ed Wilson shared a positive example from a recent VE session where a new Brazilian member felt welcomed despite language barriers, highlighting that club's successful approach to member engagement.

Amateur Radio Member Engagement Strategies

Ed Wilson discussed strategies for engaging new members in amateur radio, focusing on three key questions:

- What is your background in radio?
- What are your goals in the hobby? and
- What is your profession?

He emphasized the importance of connecting members with similar interests and addressing social anxiety within the hobby.

Ed Wilson also highlighted the need for clubs to welcome and integrate new members effectively, sharing his personal experiences of encountering unwelcoming behavior at club meetings. He expressed admiration for FLARC's setup and opportunities for member engagement, particularly their operating stations.

Radio Club Community Initiatives

Ed Wilson discussed the success of his local radio club's Friday night tech nights and community-building initiatives, including monthly "ham and eggs breakfasts" and ice cream socials at Dairy Queen that have attracted 45 members.

He shared a story about receiving a complaint from another club about its "ice cream net," where participants shared their favorite ice cream flavors. This led to his creation of "sad ham" business cards to be given to complainers.

The discussion concluded with information about the ARRL club commission program, where clubs can process membership applications and payments, earning \$20 for new members and \$5 for renewals.

April 2026 FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

ARRL Membership and Finances

The meeting focused on ARRL membership processing and club finances. The group discussed streamlining the ARRL membership process, with some members expressing that the current \$5 club processing fee and additional steps were not worth the effort, though others noted that club members appreciate the opportunity to support the club through this process.

The meeting also covered upcoming events including a portable day at Memorial Park on April 25th and plans for field day operations, with a reminder about participation in the 250th anniversary celebrations in June and September.

The business meeting was brief this month, due to the time taken for the presentation by Ed Wilson and the need to be out of the building by the 21:00 closing time. Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting closed at 20:40 edt.

Meeting summary created by Zoom AI and extensively edited by Jim W2JC, FLARC Secretary

